

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6304

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISTANBUL 2495

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM MACE

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: BGEN, BTRA, PBOR, PINT, TU, CY

SUBJECT: BUSINESS LEADERS CONSIDER LOBBYING EFFORT IN U.S.

ON CYPRUS, U.S.- TURK RELATIONS

REF: ISTANBUL 2440 DATED SEPT 10, 1974

SUMMARY: FEYYAZ BERKER, PRESIDENT OF TURKISH INDUSTRIALISTS AND BUSINESSMEN'S ASSOCIATION (TIBA) INFORMED ME YESTERDAY EVENING THAT HIS GROUP CONSIDERING ORGANIZING GROUP OF LEADERS FROM PRIVATE SECTOR TO VISIT U.S. TO LOBBY CONGRESSMEN AND OTHERS ON TURKISH VIEWS ON CYPRUS AND U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS. GROUP SEEKING MEETING WITH PRIME MIN DEMIREL ON AUGUST 7 TO OBTAIN HIS APPROVAL AND THEREAFTER WOULD SEEK MEETING WITH YOU IF DEMIREL'S RESPONSE IS POSITIVE. END SUMMARY

1. TIBA PRESIDENT BERKER INFORMED ME AUGUST 5 THAT HIS ORGANIZATION ATTEMPTING ORGANIZE TRIP TO U.S. BY LEADING BUSINESSMEN (HE MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY RAHMI KOC, NECAT EXZACIBASI AND SELAHATTIN BEYAZIT) AND AT LEAST ONE UNION LEADER TO MEET WITH CONGRESSMEN AND PRIVATE SECTOR LEADERS TO EXPLAIN TURKISH POSITION
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ON CYPRUS AND ON U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS. BERKER SAID THAT GROUP

WAS SEEKING APPOINTMENT WITH PRIME MIN DEMIREL ON
AUGUST 7 TO OBTAIN HIS APPROVAL AND TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE OF FOREIGN
MIN CAGLAYANGIL. IF DEMIREL APPROVES IDEA, GROUP WOULD THEN SEEK
TO MEET WITH YOU, POSSIBLY AS EARLY AS AUGUST 8.

2. IN RESPONSE HIS QUESTION, I TOLD BERKER I WAS SURE YOU WOULD
BE HAPPY TO MEET WITH HIS GROUP AND DISCUSS BOTH OBJECTIVES AND
MEANS OF ACHIEVING THEM. HE SAID HE WOULD LET ME KNOWN AS SOON AS
HE RECEIVED WORD ON THE REQUESTED MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER.
IT NOT YET CLEAR EXACTLY WHAT GROUPS PLANS TO DO IN U.S. BUT IT WOULD
APPARENTLY BE SIMILAR TO TRIP MADE LAST SEPTEMBER (SEE REFTEL) TO
WESTERN EUROPE IN WHICH EMPHASIS WAS ON MEETING WITH POLITICAL
AND MEDIA LEADERS. BERKER SAID VISIT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH SEN.
KAMRAN INAN AND AMB. NURI BIRGI.

3. COMMENT: IN DISCUSSING MATTER WITH MEMBERS MY STAFF, I
AGREE WITH SUGGESTION THAT IF GROUP GOES TO U.S. IT SHOULD INCLUDE
ALTIMUR KILIC, FORMER TURKISH PRESS ATTACHE IN
WASHINGTON FOR MANY YEARS WHO HAS MULTIPLICITY OF USEFUL CONTACTS.
I ALSO ENDORSE SUGGESTION THAT RATHER THAN SIMPLY CALLING SERIES
OF WELL-KNOWN PERSONALITIES INCLUDING CONGRESSMEN, GROUP SHOULD
GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT TO HOW IT COULD BEST ENCOURAGE TURKISH-AMERICAN
COMMUNITY IN U.S. TO ORGANIZE ITS OWN ONGOING EFFORT TO MAKE VIEWS
KNOWN TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. THIS KIND OF GRASS ROOTS EFFORT
FAR MORE LIKELY TO PAY DIVIDENDS THAN ONE TIME CALL ON POLITICAL AND
OTHER LEADERS.
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